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V.P. Denise O'Junker
Treasurer: Denise O'Junker
Secretary: Tim O'Eisele

Riot Act '94

The ♣NANOCON♣ Experience

"If it's not Irish, it's... Well... Some other nationality."

Number 2
Volume 14
March 1994

"Leprechauns: They're Not Just for Breakfast Anymore"

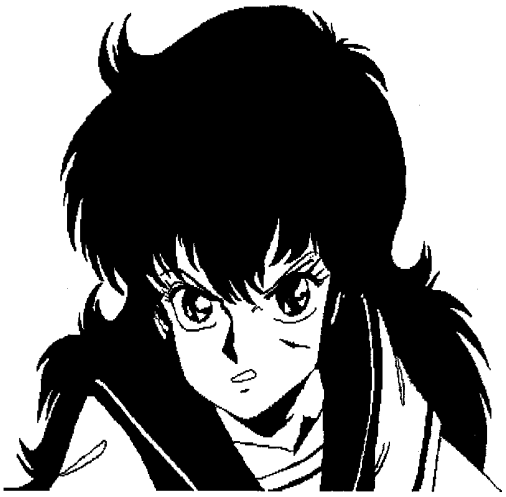
From the Eds

Hello and welcome to the special Nanocon edition of the Riot Act. "But what," you cry, "is the Riot Act?" Well, it's only the longest, funniest, and most popular newsletter that the Permanent Floating Riot Club offers. It's also the *only* newsletter that the Club has, but that's beside the point. The point is that we worked and worked to put this issue out during Nanocon. Which meant that we had to finish it *before* Nanocon.

If you're reading this, and the date is March 19, 1994, chances are you're at Nanocon, standing in Fisher Hall. And of course, you've also given the suggested donation of 25¢ (...ahem!) for the privilege of owning your very own Riot Act. But aside from that, you might be feeling a little overwhelmed by the many many activities of Nanocon. Fear not, for we can help. First, the building, you're in is called Fisher Hall, referred to by Tech students as "Fisher Hall." It was named after all the ice fishermen/fisherwomen you might've seen on Lake Superior and the Portage. Now, if you walk down the hall to your right (or some direction like that), you can catch HARO (Houghton Anime Review Organization) showing authentic Japanese anime. In fact, if you want, you might get the chance to talk anime with the Fan Guest of Honor **Lee Pelton**. Or maybe talk art with the Artist Guest of Honor **Giovanna Fregni**. If you're not a talker, why not check out the demonstrations taking place throughout the building. If you're lucky, you might see Houghton's local favorite, **Doctor Tim**, who's probably hard at work this very minute doing something potentially dangerous. And Author Guest of Honor **Jody Lynn Nye** is here from Chicago, author of several science fiction books. Because this is the Nanocon edition of the Riot Act, and because of our theme (see title of article) was inspired by Ms. Nye, we have attempted to fill this issue with lots of Irish paraphernalia. And what better Irish paraphernalia than those those tasty little guys, Leprechauns!

We did have a few candid photographs of what was believed to be a Leprechaun, but sorry, we couldn't print them because it turned out the Leprechaun was just **Sandy Hubscher** covered in Fluorescein. What we do have, however, is our usual oatmeal of interesting articles, interesting facts, and generally odd stuff. Hope you enjoy!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who helped put this together. PFRC members, it couldn't have been done without you. HARO, good buddies, we... couldn't have done it without you. And to the Gamers: We probably could've done it without you, but the whole thing would've been a complete mess with green things flying everywhere.



摩神英子

A-Ko, the star of HARO's presentation **Project A-Ko**, the story of a plucky young girl who comes to terms with the world around her by beating the stuffing out of giant robots.

REMAKING THE CLASSICS

Bob O'Kalogerakos

Rumors fly about the continuation of two SF classics.

Rumors have been flowing down the information highway recently about the possibility of a continuation of two SF classics: Star Wars and Star Trek (no relation). It has been known for some time now that this 7'th season of Star Trek: The Next Generation is to be it's last, and is in fact one more season then the producers actually planed for the show. While Deep Space Nine could be considered a replacement for ST:TNG, many fans were quite dismayed at this announcement. As for Star Wars, nothing has been made about the adventures of Luke Skywalker and Han Solo since the 1983 release of Return of the Jedi. By now, it seems that both series are being given new life, Star Trek in the form of a new series and more movies, and Star Wars in a new trilogy of movies.

Many people can remember going out to see Star Wars, that classic work of Science Fiction from the mind of George Lucas, and thinking "part IV?". It is well known that the Star Wars saga, as a whole, is nine parts, the movies that have been made being parts four, five, and six. Lucas felt these were the best plots to make into major motion pictures, and in no way could do justice to the whole story in a trilogy. But now, it appears he wishes to do a little backtracking. Plans are underway, according to an interview with Lucas on Entertainment Tonight, to produce the first three stories in the Star Wars saga. These stories, dealing with a young Obi-wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, take place before and during the Clone Wars and the Emperors rise to power. To put the stories into a time frame, Luke and Leia are supposed to have been born at the end of the third movie.

According to Lucas, these stories are less action-oriented, and deal more with the political and personal situations the characters are put through. Speculation about the characters and actors for the movie are at this time just that; speculation. Naturally, the timing of the stories eliminates many characters from the original films. Some that will appear in both trilogies are Obi-wan, Anakin, and the Emperor. It's also probable that some of the story will deal with Darth Vader's and the Emperor's campaign to wipe out the Jedi. This could lead to a plethora of cameos for people who "have always wanted to be in Star Wars". Using the old actors, however, such as Harrison Ford, would only lead to comparisons of the characters they play in this film versus the old. So far, Lucasfilm has been keeping information to a minimum, but expect to see production of the new films start some time next year.

Another classic SF adventure, "Star Trek: The Next Generation" was scheduled to be cancelled at the end of this season, and indeed it will be. There is new hope, however, for Star Trek fans who didn't take well to the Space Station replacement that Deep Space Nine offered. In October 1993, Paramount announced that they will attempt

♣ continued on page four ♣

Terminated

By Andy O'Kaiser
Idea by Sandy O'Hubscher
Knowledge gleaned from Tim O'Eisele

Arnold Schwarzenegger. We've all seen the big lug in many movies. He's single-handedly saved the earth, fought off otherworldly monsters, and taken care of school-children. He's even been to Mars. Boy, that guy travels. But a question was proposed a while ago: What if Arnold went to other planets? Well, that's what the purpose of this article is, to bring an answer.

Let's go in order and start with Mercury. Depending on what side of the planet he was on, two different things could happen. If he was on the sunny side, he'd be instantly carbonized. Without any oxygen to ignite, Arnold wouldn't burn. His muscle-bound body would quickly turn into a black crisp as every cell would transform into a miniature piece of toast. Of course, if he was on the side of Mercury away from the sun, he'd just freeze. Quickly. Not as impressive, true, but it would impress the heck out of any aliens flying around. "Check it out, Gogar: It's Arnold! Grab his autograph. Oh, wait, he's frozen. Grab an arm."

If Arnold went to Venus, there would be a heavy atmosphere for him to burn in. At least enough for him to roast a little before carbonizing.

We already know what would happen on Earth: he'd start out as a world-class weightlifter and star in many movies. Mars, we also know: He'd terraform the place with the help of a million-year-old alien nuclear reactor.

On Jupiter, as he floats slowly down through the dense atmosphere, Arnold would be crushed and asphyxiated. Not very pleasant, but if he's high in the atmosphere, he'd be frozen pretty fast. If he was deeper in the planet, he'd be dissolved in metallic hydrogen.

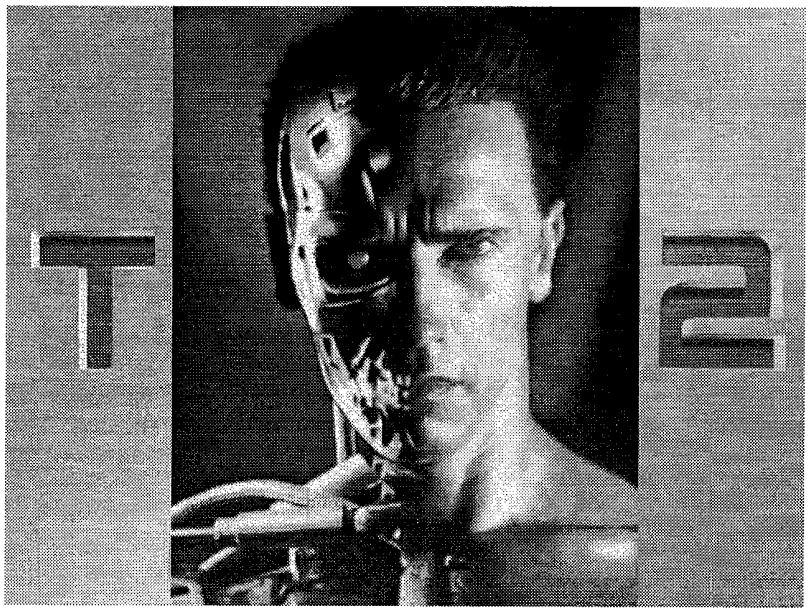
Saturn. There, he'd be crushed and asphyxiated and frozen and married to Lwaxana Troi. Now that's suffering.

Uranus and Neptune would be about the same, without the marriage. He might not be crushed, but he'd definitely suffocate and freeze.

On Pluto, being so far away from the Sun, he wouldn't carbonize. There would be no atmosphere for even an attempt at asphyxiating. Point the telescopes towards that tiny planet... Freeze-dried Arnold.

Oh, just to clear the air, this was not meant as an attack on Arnold in any way. Really. I'd never put the guy on any planet unprotected just for the reason of scientific study. But, for pure amusement...

Stay tuned for next issue, where we put Arnold on all the moons!



Arnold on Jupiter: "I'll be ba- eeerrk!"

"...What is your name?"
"Captain Jean-Luc Picard."
"What is your quest?"
"I seek the Holy Grail."
"What is the top velocity of a Bird of Prey?"
"What do you mean, Romulan or Klingon?"
"What?! I... I don't know that- Aaaaaaaah!"

"Et tu, O'Butler-Ehle?"

Bob O'Kalogerakos

All's quiet at this time after the month-long upheaval of the PFRC government that occurred shortly after Christmas.

It was reported by President **Dan Butler-Ehle** in January that complaints had reached him of unfair ruling practices being carried out by the president, namely Dan himself. In response, Dan immediately dissolved the Parliament. The Parliament of what we're not sure. He set himself up as dictator, which was fine by everyone else, according to him.

However, dissidents still circulated through the underbelly of PFRC, and a plot was hatched to overthrow the new dictator. This plot, formulated by the dictator himself, was put into action, and our new leader found that he had overthrown himself. Returning the populous to calm by reinstating democracy, or a reasonable facsimile, it seemed all was finally quiet.

But, it seems the self-overthrow had lead to a group of radicals loyal to Dictator Dan (as he was affectionately called for a week) attempting to storm the presidential palace. But, as many PFRCers guessed, there is no presidential palace, and the insurgents got hopelessly lost, eventually finding themselves in one of the more scenic parts of Greenland, thanks to **Bob Yeo's** attempts at navigation.

Another band of insurgents fell through the Portage, refusing to find the presidential palace or a sense of direction. Dredging for the band of rebels has only revealed 22 snowmobiles and a small pistol with the initials J.H., and "Thanks from the members of Teamsters Union 231" engraved on the barrel.

While it is believed all rebels perished in the incident, presidential guards are still on alert. As there are no presidential guards, everyone is sleeping normally tonight. Although that's not saying much...

Page O' Science

The articles on this page were collected from various sources and printed for your enjoyment...

ASK DR. DON

by Don O'Woodraska

Our question comes from 3 year old Betsy Wetmyself of Bfe-Donia, MD. Betsy asks, "*Why doesn't the moon fall down?*"

Hmmm. Let me put on my patented Vorpal helmet of ridiculous oration.
Zzzz. Oops, wrong helmet. There, that's better. Prepare to activate... Owwwwww!

The answer to your question, Betsy, is quite simple really. The moon is a fat albino hydrogen addict, and whenever a child loses his or her balloon the moon catches it and sucks all the hydrogen out of it. Kinda like a 'hydrogen lung'. Tull rules!

THE SEX LIFE OF AN ELECTRON

from the I(rish)net

One night when his charge was at full capacity, Micro Farad decided to get a cute little coil to discharge him. He picked up Millie Amp and took her for a ride on his megacycle. They rode across the wheat stone bridge, around the sine wave, and into the magnetic field next to the flowing current.

Micro Farad, attracted by Millie's characteristic curve, soon had her field fully excited. He laid her on the ground potential, raised her frequency, lowered her resistance, and pulled out his high voltage probe. He inserted it in parallel and began to short circuit her shunt. Fully excited, Millie cried out, "ohm, ohm, give me mho." With his tube at maximum output and her coil vibrating from the current flow, her shunt soon reached maximum heat.

The excessive current had shorted her shunt, and Micro's capacity was rapidly discharged, and every electron was drained off. They fluxed all night, tried various connections and hookings until his bar magnet had lost all of its strength, and he could no longer generate enough voltage to sustain his collapsing field. With his battery fully discharged, Micro was unable to excite his tickler, so they ended up reversing polarity and blowing each other's fuses.

The Age Old Question

Collected from the Internet by Tim O'Eisele

"Which is heavier- A pound of feathers, or a pound of lead?"

A pound of lead. This can be proven by a simple experiment for which you will need the following:

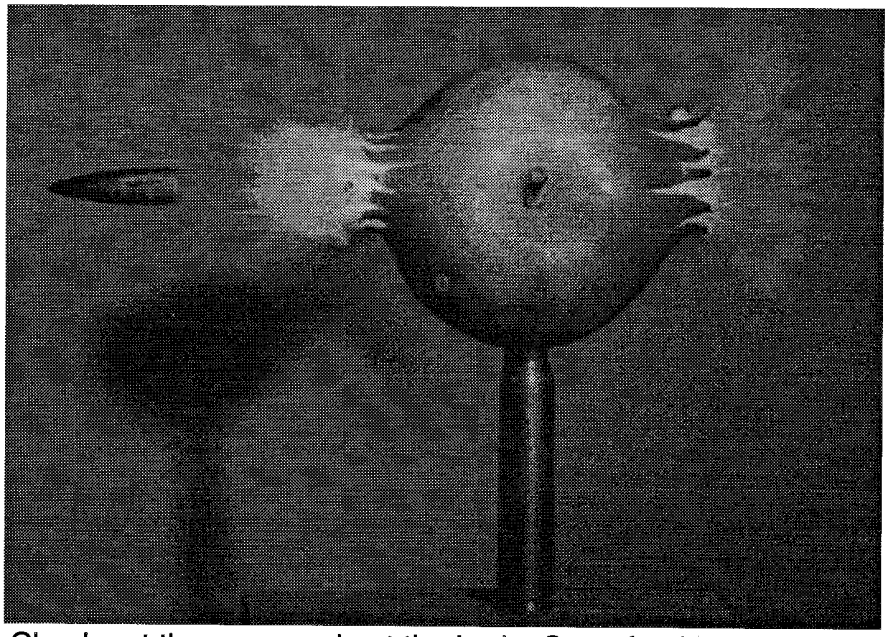
- a one pound lead weight
- a very large bird
- a first aid kit
- an old-fashioned balance scale
- rope or heavy twine

Step 1: Using the tweezers from the first-aid kit, remove one pound of feathers from the bird. Use the balance scale and lead weight to accurately measure the weight of the feathers. Use the rest of the first-aid kit to treat your injuries. If the bird does not have enough feathers to remove one full pound, repeat this step with a larger bird or find half-pound weights and continue the experiment with two birds.

Step 2: Tie the lead weight to the bird's leg using the rope or twine. Be certain the weight is securely attached to the bird. Again, use the first-aid kit to treat your injuries. For best results use a massless, frictionless rope (found in college Physics textbooks) or weigh the rope and remove additional feathers.

Step 3: Release the bird and observe that it can no longer fly.

Conclusion: The bird cannot fly because it is now too heavy, after the replacement of a pound of feathers with a pound of lead. Thus, we conclude that a pound of lead is heavier than a pound of feathers.



Check out the new movie at the Lode: Sorry for the Headache
Starring Jean-Claude VanDamme as William Tell.

♣ continued from page one ♣

to launch a fifth TV network, much like their competitor, Fox did, some years back. Set for 1995, this new network would be spearheaded by a new "Star Trek" show. This show, who's current working title is Star Trek: Voyager, will be set in the same time frame as ST:TNG and DS9. To debut in January of 1995, it will feature the crew of the a new Voyager-class starship. While pursuing a band of rebel Starfleeters near the Cardassian border, they are flung into a sort of galactic Bermuda Triangle, and are sent to an unexplored part of the galaxy. Here, the renegades and the Voyager crew team up on the Voyager to explore, as they have nothing better to do, and try to get home. The cast should consist of eight or nine regulars, who will include: a half-Klingon, half-human woman, a holographic character, a Vulcan, a native American, and several other, probably non-human, characters.

Also in the works is a seventh Star Trek movie. However, it will not be "Star Trek VII". It will be under the title of "ST:TNG the Movie" or something similar. To start shooting in April 1994, the movie will be directed by David Carson. It will have both crews, the old and the new, in the movie, but they will meet only briefly, if at all. The opening will deal with the old crew, possibly solving a problem that the Next Generation crew will have to refix in the future. Another rumor is that the new crew of the Enterprise will find Kirk frozen, a-la-Han Solo, and revive him. However, Paramount has also said that due to the extremely high price Shatner wants for a cameo, the scripts may be rewritten to keep him out of the picture. Also, Nimoy is reportedly upset by the fact that Spock has a relatively minor role in the new film, and probably won't do it. The only certainity is that Patrick Stewart is signed on to do the movie, while the rest of the cast is waiting to see the script. And with the egos they're dealing with, both old and new, you know there will be many rewrites before the April shooting date.

Yep, that's a stumper.

by Andy O'Kaiser

If you tripped and fell down an up escelator, would you fall forever?

Top Ten things you'll never hear on the USS Enterprise:

⑩ "No, please, Mr. Data, do go on. I find your list of synonyms for 'extinct' fascinating..."

⑨ "Good work, Counsellor. If you hadn't told us those aliens had hostile intent, we would have been completely fooled by their plan."

⑧ "Jean-Luc, since the ship is in no danger at all, and we're not about to die, there's something I want to tell you...

⑦ "The... doohicky... has gone all... funny, making that gizmo light up... the one that means the warp engines are... ya know... all messed up."

⑥ "Captain's Log, Stardate... damn. What's the date? Number One, what's today? No, I know it's Tuesday, what's the date? The STARdate!"

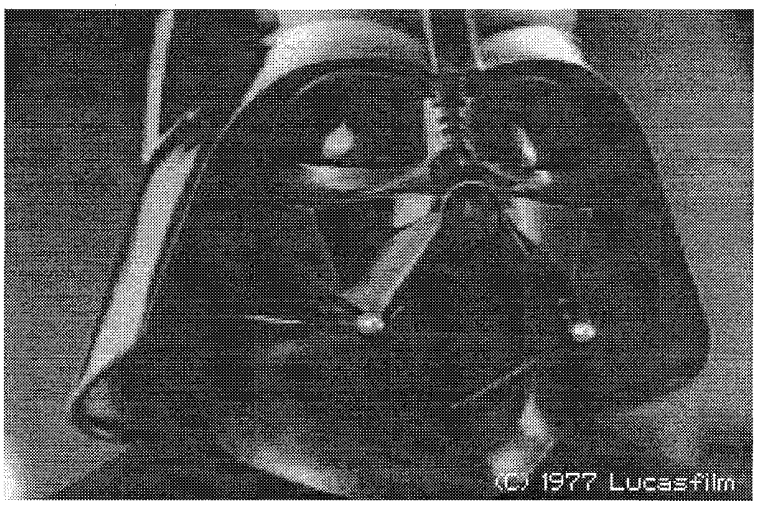
⑤ "Tea, Lemon Zinger, iced."

④ "Klingons do NOT wear frilly underwear... at least not on duty."

③ "Prime Directive? We don't need no steenkin' Prime Directive!"

② "The aliens are locking their weapons on us... firing... a miss. Shall I open hailing frequencies so you can laugh in their faces?"

① "Ah, what the heck. I'm bored. Screw the hailing frequencies, fire at will."



The new Star Wars movies will explore the origins of Darth O'Vader, among others.

Well, that's it for this Riot Act. If you have any complements or complaints, or just need someone to talk to, feel free to write email...

abkaiser@mtu.edu
or
rhkaloge@mtu.edu

If you don't have an email account, you can write to PFRC at this address:

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Houghton, MI, 49931

If you want an article printed in the Riot Act, or have a letter to the editors, don't hesitate to mail to us.

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Boy is My Face Red...

As with any newsletter, mistakes can happen. We believe this is due to the undeniable fact that the writers and editors are (With a few exceptions) human. So, here are a few mistakes from Riot Act Number 1 that everyone was nice enough to point out to us. I just wish they hadn't pointed right away. One works one's hinder off to produce (for example) a Riot Act, and then one realizes (with help from friends) that their hard work was riddled with the bullets of incompetence. Oh well. As somebody said somewhere sometime: "The harder you fall, the higher you bounce."

→ First of all, apologies abound to Jody Lynn Nye for the incorrect spelling of her name. Really, we thought we had a reliable source who knew how to spell!

→ We're sorry, Dan! It was incorrectly stated that Dan Butler-Ehle was a "satellite dish owner." We would like to say that Dan does **not** own a satellite dish. In fact, the only purpose of that big thing in his back yard is to sometimes double as a chip bowl at many of the bigger PFRC parties.

→ And apologies to all who tried using the listed ingredients in the "Build Your Own Bomb" experiment. It should've read "1.5 grams Ur-235," and not "15 grams Plutonium." We regret any genocide or even nasty radiation burns that may have occurred.